

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

**b.) Listing of Claims**

What is claimed is:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method for tooth rejuvenation comprising:

applying to a tooth a layer of a composition comprising an aqueous solution of one or more edible acids, The method of Claim 1, wherein one or more edible acids is selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, lactic acid, fumaric acid, malic acid, maleic acid, ascorbic acid, adipic acid, and sorbic acid and combinations thereof, and wherein the composition has a pH selected from the range of about 0.5 to 5 and wherein the composition does not contain peroxide; and

removing the composition from the tooth.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 5, wherein applying the layer of the composition lasts between 1 second and 60 minutes at a body temperature at the tooth surface.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 5, wherein applying the layer of the composition occurs at temperatures between 40°C and 60°C.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 5, wherein the composition further comprises a light absorbing material.

9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for tooth rejuvenation comprising:

5 applying to a tooth surface a layer of composition comprising an aqueous solution of one or  
more edible acids and ions comprising the elements selected from the group consisting of Ca,  
Cr, Ba, Cd, Mg, P, As, Si, F and combinations thereof. The method of Claim 9, wherein one or  
more edible acids is selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid,  
lactic acid, fumaric acid, malic acid, maleic acid, ascorbic acid, adipic acid, sorbic acid and  
10 combinations thereof, and wherein the composition has a pH selected from the range of about  
0.5 to 5; and

removing the composition from the tooth surface.

15 13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 12 9, wherein applying the layer of the composition  
lasts between 1 second and 60 minutes at a body temperature at the tooth surface.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 12 9, wherein applying the layer of the composition  
occurs at temperatures between 40°C and 60°C.

20 15. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 12 9, wherein the composition further comprises a  
light absorbing material.

16. (Canceled)

25 17. (Original) A method for tooth rejuvenation comprising:

applying to a tooth surface a layer of composition comprising an aqueous solution of one or  
more edible acids, wherein the composition has a pH selected from the range of about 0.5 to 5;

30 heating the composition to a temperature no higher than 60°C; and

removing the composition from the tooth surface.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein heating the composition comprises acting on a composition with a pulsed heating source.

5 19. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein a pulse of the heating source has a width shorter than 1 second and a duty cycle lower than 0.4.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 17, further comprising applying a remineralization compound to the tooth surface.

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21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

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23. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein one or more edible acids comprises one or more carboxylic acids.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein one or more edible acids is selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, lactic acid, fumaric acid, malic acid, maleic acid, ascorbic acid, adipic acid, sorbic acid and combinations thereof.

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25. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the step of applying the composition and the step of applying the remineralization compound alternate.

26. (Canceled)

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27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

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29. (Currently Amended) The tooth rejuvenating composition of Claim 28, A tooth rejuvenating composition comprising an aqueous solution of one or more edible acids having a pH within the range from about 0.5 to about 5, which composition does not contain peroxide; and

elements selected from the group consisting of Ca, Cr, Ba, Cd, Mg, P, As, Si, F and combinations thereof in a chelating agent, wherein the Ca chelating agent is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid and its salts.

5 30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) The tooth rejuvenating composition of Claim ~~29~~ 27, further comprising at least one light absorbing ingredient having a coefficient of absorption higher than that of a tissue surrounding the tooth in a range of wavelengths.

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32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

15 35. (Currently Amended) ~~The tooth rejuvenating article of manufacture of Claim 32,~~ A tooth rejuvenating article of manufacture comprising a porous material and an aqueous solution of one or more edible acids having a pH within the range from about 0.5 to about 5, and wherein the composition does not contain peroxide, wherein one or more edible acids is selected from the groups consisting of acetic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, lactic acid, fumaric acid, malic acid, maleic acid, ascorbic acid, adipic acid, sorbic acid and combinations thereof.

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36. (Currently Amended) The tooth rejuvenating article of manufacture of Claim ~~35~~ 32, wherein the composition further comprises a light absorbing material having a coefficient of absorption higher than that of a tissue surrounding the tooth in a range of wavelengths.

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37. (Currently Amended) The tooth rejuvenating article of manufacture of Claim ~~35~~ 32, further comprising a comprising Ca, Cr, Ba, Cd, Mg, P, As, Si, and F in a chelating agent.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Canceled)

30 40. (Canceled)

41. (Canceled)

42. (Canceled)

43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for rejuvenating hard tissue, comprising:

a housing with a capsule comprising an aqueous edible acid composition,

a heating element for heating the acid composition;

a temperature sensor for monitoring the temperature of the acid composition;

a control system connected to the heating element and the temperature sensor to maintain the temperature of the acid rejuvenation composition at a desired temperature, the control system also serving to activate an indicator when the desired temperature is achieved;

a power supply for providing power to the heating element upon activating a switch;

an applicator for applying the acid composition onto external surface of hard tissue; and

~~The apparatus of claim 43, further providing a light source for illuminating hard tissue, and a switch to activate the light source.~~

45. (Original) An apparatus for rejuvenating teeth, comprising:

a light source for illuminating and heating teeth, the light source being connected to a control power block and serving to generate light in a range of wavelengths in which a coefficient of absorption of a composition comprising an aqueous solution of one or more edible acids and having a pH from within a range from about 0.5 to about 5 is higher than that of a tissue surrounding teeth; and

a detachable mouthpiece coupled to the light source.

46. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 45, further comprising a temperature sensor for detecting the temperature of teeth, the temperature sensor being coupled to the control power block.

47. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 45, wherein the range of wavelengths is in the range from 600 nm to 1350 nm.
48. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 45, further comprising an optical system optically coupled to the light sources and guiding the light from the light source to the teeth.
49. (Canceled)
50. (Canceled)
51. (Canceled)
52. (Canceled)
53. (Canceled)
54. (Canceled)
55. (Canceled)
56. (Canceled)
57. (Canceled)
58. (Canceled)
59. (Canceled)
60. (Canceled)
61. (Canceled)
62. (Original) A method of hard tissue modification comprising selectively heating a porous layer of the hard tissue to cause the porous layer to fuse.
63. (Original) The method of Claim 62, wherein selectively heating comprises acting on the porous layer with a pulsed laser.
64. (Original) The method of Claim 62, wherein a thickness of the porous layer is between 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  and 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .
65. (Original) The method of Claim 62, wherein selectively heating comprises heating the porous layer to a temperature higher than a melting temperature of hard tissue but less than 2000°C.

66. (Original) The method of Claim 62, further comprising forming the porous layer of the hard tissue before selectively heating the porous layer.
- 5 67. (Original) The method of Claim 62, further comprising cooling the porous layer with a cooling fluid.
68. (Canceled)
69. (Canceled)
70. (Canceled)
- 10 71. (Canceled)
72. (Canceled)
73. (Canceled)
74. (Canceled)
- 15 75. (Original) A method of hard tissue modification comprising:  
  
impregnating a porous layer of the hard tissue with particles having a fluidity temperature about the same as a melting temperature of the hard tissue of the porous layer; and  
  
20 selectively heating the porous layer to a temperature higher than the melting temperature of the hard tissue, causing the hard tissue and the particles to fuse.
76. (Original) The method of Claim 75, wherein the particles are inorganic particles.
- 25 77. (Original) The method of Claim 76, wherein the inorganic particles are crystal , ceramic, glass or their mixture.
78. (Original) The method of Claim 76, wherein the inorganic particles are name of  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}-\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Ca}(\text{PO}_3)$ ,  $\text{CaF}_2$ ,  $\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2$ , and  $\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6\text{F}_2$ .
- 30 79. (Original) The method of Claim 75, wherein selectively heating the porous layer comprises heating by acoustic energy, electromagnetic energy, comprising light, microwave, radio frequency, and electric current, and combinations thereof.

80. (Original) A method of hard tissue modification comprising:

impregnating the porous layer of hard tissue with particles having a fluidity temperature higher  
than a melting temperature of a hard tissue of the porous layer; and

selectively heating the porous layer to a temperature higher than the melting temperature of the  
hard tissues, but lower than the fluidity temperature of the particles.

81. (Original) The method of Claim 80, wherein selectively heating the porous layer comprises  
heating by acoustic energy, electromagnetic energy, comprising light, microwave, radio  
frequency, and electric current, and combinations thereof.

82. (Original) The method of Claim 80, wherein the particles are inorganic particles.

83. (Original) The method of Claim 82, wherein the inorganic particles are made of crystal,  
ceramic, glass or their mixture.

84. (Original) The method of Claim 83, wherein the particles are made of quartz glass or sital glass.

85. (Original) The method of Claim 83, wherein the particles are crystals selected from the group  
consisting of crystals of quartz, diamond, sapphire, topaz, amethyst, zircon, agate, granite,  
spinel, fianite, tanzanite, tourmaline and combinations thereof.

86. (Canceled)

87. (Currently Amended) A method of hard tissue modification comprising:

filling the porous layer of the hard tissue with a fluidified material preheated above at least its

fluidity temperature. ~~The method of Claim 86,~~ wherein the fluidified material is glass, crystal or  
ceramic and mixture thereof; and

letting the fluidified material cool and solidify in the porous layer.



88. (Canceled)

89. (Currently Amended) A method of hard tissue modification comprising:

impregnating a porous surface of the hard tissue with particles having a fluidity temperature higher than a melting temperature of a hard tissue of the porous surface; and

filling the porous surface with a material preheated above its fluidity temperature. The method of Claim 88, wherein the material is glass, crystal or ceramic or mixture thereof, and wherein the fluidity temperature of the material is lower than a melting temperature of the particles and that of the hard tissue.

90. (Currently Amended) The method as in Claims 62, 75 or 80, wherein the porous layer is a carious lesion, open dentine, cementum, bone, or cartilage.

91. (Original) The method as in Claims 62, 75 or 80, wherein the porous layer is formed by applying the compound comprised of an acid.

92. (Original) The method as in Claims 62, 75 or 80, wherein selectively heating the porous layer is followed by active control cooling.

93. (Original) The method according to Claim 92, wherein active control cooling is provided by water.

94. (Original) A method of hard tissue modification comprising forming a post-treatment layer having a composition differing from that of the hard tissue by selectively heating a porous layer on the hard tissue.

95. (Original) The method of Claim 94, comprising a step of forming the porous layer by applying to the hard tissue a composition having an acid before selectively heating the porous layer.

96. (Original) The method of Claim 94, comprising a step of impregnating the porous layer with particles before selectively heating the porous layer.

97. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the composition comprises peroxide in of  
5 concentration up to 35%.

98. (Canceled)

99. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

10 a first portion spaced apart from a second portion, the first and the second portions disposed in  
the hand-held apparatus, the first portion serving to contain an acid-based tooth rejuvenation  
composition and the second portion serving to contain a second composition when the  
apparatus is in operation;

15 The apparatus of Claim 49, further comprising a valve coupling the first portion and the second  
portion to the chamber.

a chamber connected to the first and the second portions; and

20 a mechanism for propelling the acid-based tooth rejuvenation composition and the second  
composition into the chamber.

100. (Canceled)

25 101. (Original) A method comprising:

applying to a tooth a layer of a first composition comprising an aqueous solution of one or more  
edible acids, wherein the first composition has a pH selected from the range of about 0.5 to 5;

30 selectively heating the layer to a temperature selected from the range from about 37°C to 60°C  
for a time period from about 1 second to about 60 minutes;

applying to the tooth a second composition comprising bleaching compound; and

35 removing the second and the first compositions from the tooth.

102. (Original) The method of Claim 101 where bleaching compound comprises peroxide with concentration of up to 35%.

5 103. (Original) The method of Claim 101, further comprising applying to the tooth a remineralization compound.

104. (Canceled)

105. (Canceled)

10 106. (Canceled)

107. (Canceled)

108. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

15 a hand piece having a distal end and a proximal end and a channel extending between the distal and proximal ends;

a heater coupled to the hand piece or detached from the hand piece, wherein the heater is so located that it generates enough heat to fluidify a material passing through the channel when the apparatus is in operation. ~~The apparatus of Claim 104,~~ wherein the material is glass, crystal or ceramic and mixture thereof; and

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a mechanism for transporting the material through the channel from the distal end to the proximal end.

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109. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~108~~ 104, wherein the material is selected from the group of inorganic glass or organic glass.

110. (Canceled)

30 111. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a probe having a distal end, a tip and a reservoir for containing a mixture, the mixture comprising a water-based acid solution and solid-state particles;

a first heater coupled to the probe and serving to heat the mixture when the apparatus is in operation; and

a device associated the tip and serving to generate enough heat to melt a hard tissue disposed in proximity to the tip when the apparatus is in operation. ~~The apparatus as in Claim 110, wherein the device associated with the tip is a second heater.~~

112. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~111~~ 140, wherein the device associated with the tip is a scanner connected to laser source via an optical pathway.

113. (Canceled)

114. (Canceled)

115. (Canceled)

116. (Currently Amended) A tooth rejuvenating composition comprising an aqueous solution of one or more edible acids having a pH within the range from about 0.5 to about 5, The method of Claim 27, wherein one or more edible acids is selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, lactic acid, fumaric acid, malic acid, maleic acid, ascorbic acid, adipic acid, sorbic acid and combinations thereof, and which composition does not contain peroxide.

117. (Canceled)

118. (Canceled)